

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:IO:CWMAYNES
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TO USINT BAGHDAD
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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y -- FOR ADDRESSEE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, IS, LE, SSOD, UNSC, IY

SUBJECT: SSOD: ISRAELI REACTION TO IRAQI RESOLUTION

1. ISRAELI MINISTER BAR-ON CALLED ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES ON JUNE 5 TO "TRY OUT" TWO IDEAS TO SIDETRACK IRAQI RESOLUTION AT SSOD CONDEMNING ISRAELI USE OF CLUSTER BOMBS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND CALLING FOR CHAPTER 7 SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAQ BY THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

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2. BAR-ON STATED THAT ISRAEL WAS VERY CONCERNED BY THE IRAQI RESOLUTION WHICH HE KNEW WE WERE STRONGLY OPPOSING. HIS OWN GOVERNMENT HAD NO FIRM PROPOSAL TO MAKE ON THIS SUGGESTION BUT WISHED TO ADVANCE THE FOLLOWING TWO IDEAS FOR MAYNES' PERSONAL REACTION:

(A) ISRAEL WOULD INTRODUCE ITS OWN RESOLUTION CALLING

FOR A MIDDLE EAST DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE; OR

(B) THE US WOULD INFORM NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES THAT UNLESS THEY WITHDREW THE IRAQI RESOLUTION, THE US WOULD WALK OUT OF THE SSOD.

3. MAYNES REPLIED THAT THE SECOND SUGGESTION WAS NOT FEASIBLE. THE US COULD NOT WALK OUT OF THE LARGEST

DISARMAMENT MEETING SINCE THE EARLY 1930'S WITHOUT PROVIDING A HISTORIC PROPAGANDA VICTORY TO THE SOVIET UNION. REGARDING BAR-ON'S FIRST SUGGESTION, MAYNES NOTED THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAVE ASSERTED THAT THEY WILL NEVER TAKE PART IN REGIONAL DISARMAMENT TALKS IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO CONTROL CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS UNTIL ISRAEL CEASES OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS TAKEN IN THE 1967 WAR. THEY ARGUE THAT UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS ME DISARMAMENT TALKS MEAN "DISARMING THE WEAK." GIVEN THE POSITION OF EVEN A MODERATE STATE LIKE EGYPT, MAYNES THEREFORE DOUBTED THAT AN ISRAELI RESOLUTION CALLING FOR REGIONAL DISARMAMENT TALKS WOULD HAVE ANY PERCEPTIBLE EFFECT IN DE-RAILING THE IRAQI INITIATIVE. MAYNES POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IF ISRAEL WERE TO CALL FOR REGIONAL DISARMAMENT TALKS IN A MANNER WHICH SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THE IRANIAN AND EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THAT MIGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AROUSE SUFFICIENT INTEREST FOR THE MODERATE ARABS TO LEAN ON THE IRAQIS TO END THEIR PROPAGANDA EXERCISE. BAR-ON DID NOT COMMENT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER ON THIS OBSERVATION.

4. ON BASIS USUN'S 2252 AND PREVIOUS REPORTING ON THIS SUBJECT, MAYNES BROUGHT BAR-ON UP TO DATE ON SITUATION IN NEW YORK AND NOTED THAT US SSOD DELEGATION WAS WORKING HARD WITH OTHER KEY DELS TO HEAD OFF IRAQI RESOLUTION. MAYNES ALSO NOTED THAT US SSOD DEL WAS MAINTAINING CLOSE CONTACT WITH ISRAELI DELEGATION ON THIS AND OTHER SSOD ISSUES.

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